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Governor's Budget Reaffirms California's Commitment to Harnessing the Full Potential of Health Reform

OAKLAND, CA, January 9, 2014 – Erica Murray, President and CEO of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems issued the following statement today regarding Governor Brown's proposed budget plan for FY 2014-15:

"California's public health care systems applaud the Administration's ongoing efforts to restore fiscal stability and fully implement health reform. Access to coverage has already been extended to millions of Californians through the Med-Cal expansion and Covered California, and we are pleased to see the Governor's budget proposal validate California's leading role in implementing the ACA. Public health care systems are fully committed to doing everything we can to fulfill the promise of the ACA and improve the health of all Californians. Over the last several years, public health care systems helped California to take full advantage of the Medicaid expansion, by leading early coverage expansion efforts to enroll more than 660,000 low-income uninsured adults through the Low Income Health Program. Public health care systems are continuing to work diligently to ensure seamless continuity of care as enrollees transition from the LIHP program into Medi-Cal and Covered California.

The Governor's budget proposal includes \$900 million in projected state budget savings associated with the redirection of county funding for indigent care in FY 2014-15. Considering the exciting opportunity that we have to build on our current momentum, we look forward to working with the Legislature and Administration to arrive at a realignment figure that reflects initial health reform experience and enables California's public health care systems to continue to successfully implement health reform while maintaining a strong, viable safety net for those who need care or remain uninsured. It is critical that these estimates are as accurate as possible to ensure that public health care systems have the funding they need to continue serving the millions of patients who rely on these systems of care."

CAPH represents California's 21 public health care systems – comprised of county-owned and -operated facilities and University of California medical centers committed to ensuring excellent patient experience, maximizing health outcomes, and delivering high-value care to the state's lowest income and most vulnerable populations.

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